GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
NATIONAL WATER POLICY .
DINSHA J. PATEL;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL;SAHIB SINGH VERMA;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a revised National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the views of all State Governments have been obtained while formulating the new water policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Draft Revised National Water Policy are as follows:

(1) Laying greater emphasis on the improvement of the performance of the existing water resources facilities.

(2) Formulation of guidelines for water allocation amongst the basin States keeping in view the national perspective on the water resources availability.

(3) Review and amendment of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 for timely adjudication for Water Dispute referred to the Tribunal.

(4) Establishment of appropriate River Basin Organisations with statutory powers for the planning, development and management for a river basin as a whole or sub-basins, where necessary.

(5) Development of a standardized national information system for promoting free exchange of data among the various agencies through a suitable legislation.

(6) Formulation of a national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation so that the project-affected persons share the benefits through proper rehabilitation.

(7) Enactment of a dam safety legislation to ensure proper inspection, maintenance and surveillance of existing dams.

(8) Ensuring institutional arrangements for maintenance of

water resources schemes and involving Water Users Associations in the operation, maintenance and the management of water infrastructures.

(9) Fixing of Water charges for various uses in such a way that they cover at least the operation and maintenance costs with well targeted subsidy.

(10) Maintaining minimum flows in the perennial streams and treatment of effluents to acceptable levels land standards before discharging into rivers for maintaining ecology.

(11) Encouraging Non-conventional methods for utilisation of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water, desalination of brackish or seawater, rain water harvesting and watershed management.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. The draft revised National Water Policy was finalized by the National Water Board on 29.10.98 after protracted deliberation. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UT's are members of the board.

(e) Question does not arise.